



Defense Security Cooperation Agency
NEWS RELEASE

On the web: <http://www.dsca.mil>

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Humanitarian Daily Rations To Victims Of Gulf Coast Hurricanes

Arlington, 26 Sep 2005 – The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) is providing over one million Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs) to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from warehouses in the Southeastern United States.

On Thursday, 22 September, the USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, on behalf of FEMA, contacted DSCA's Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief and Mine Action (HDM) office requesting the availability of HDRs to help feed victims of hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

Within a few hours of the request, DSCA released of all existing HDR stocks warehoused in Albany, Georgia and Norfolk, Virginia. As of noon Monday, Albany and Norfolk warehouse personnel had loaded 42 FEMA trucks with meals.

"We are planning to load the last FEMA trucks tomorrow afternoon," said Diane Halvorsen, the DSCA HDM program deputy. "We are elated at the opportunity to help victims of hurricanes Rita and Katrina. We have made HDRs available to most corners of the world to help victims of natural or man-made disasters, but this is the first time HDRs will help feed victims in the United States."



The total number of meals released to FEMA comes to 1,022,210. HDRs, with 2,300 calories each, are designed to provide a full day's sustenance and to accommodate the widest range of cultural or religious dietary restrictions.

Each ration consists of two main vegetarian meals based on lentils, rice with beans and peas in tomato sauce, and other items like bread, a fruit pastry, a fortified biscuit, peanut butter and spices.

Since the HDR program started in 1993, DSCA has delivered more than 16 million HDRs to over 22 countries experiencing adverse effects from war, famine, floods, or earthquakes, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Cuba, and East Timor.

Links:

FEMA: <http://www.fema.gov/>

DSCA HDM: <http://www.dsca.mil/programs/HA/HA.htm>